RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR: Is it because the number of graduates in the backward communities is so large that he is not able to give the answer?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: No, Sir. The answer is given. There are no statistics.

Arabic instruction.

123. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reply of the Dewan given to the Muslim deputation on the question of Arabic instruction in schools?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Government have no idea to discontinue the existing arrangements and curriculum in Primary schools for the teaching of Arabic. If a school or college or institution for teaching Arabic and allied languages or for imparting Koranic instruction were started with the idea of training Muslim youths in Islamic Culture, Government would view such endeavour with sympathy and would be willing to assist such institutions in the same way as they have helped in the formation of an Arabic Chair in the University. Government are not against the members of any religion imparting religious instruction to the followers of that religion and they have repeatedly declared their policy in the matter. This however is quite a different proposition from Government financing not only the programme of compulsory primary education but of paying the cost of maintaining in addition, denominational schools run by private managements and situate in areas wherein Government have undertaken the entire responsibility for primary education.

MR. P. K. KUNJU: Are we to take it that the existing arrangement will continue?

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

Food Advisory Taluk Committee in Mavelikara taluk.

124. *MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is a Food Advisory Taluk Committee in Mavelikara taluk;

(*b*) if there is one, whether it meets and decides any matter in connection with the food problem; and

(*c*) whether there is any Ezhava member in the Committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Food Supplies and Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It meets occasionally and advises the Tahsildar.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know the names of the members of the committee?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I have not got the names, but the one of the members of the committee is an Ezhava.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I have at least the number of members of the committee?

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